

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-14 EA-12 EUR-12 NEA-10  
L-03 FRB-01 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 ICA-20 AGRE-00  
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NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-07 TRSE-00 CEA-01 SS-15  
CEQ-01 SOE-02 DODE-00 EPA-04 NSF-02 NSC-05 PM-05  
OES-09 DOE-15 INT-05 /202 W  
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R 171852Z JUL 78  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2199  
INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK  
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 GENEVA 10993

E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: AORG, UN, SENV  
SUBJECT: 1978 SUMMER ECOSOC; AGENDA ITEM 14 - INTERNATIONAL  
COOPERATION ON ENVIRONMENT, JULY 10-13

1. CHAIRMAN OPENED MEETING 7/10/78 WITH RESUME OF WORK  
PROGRAM ADOPTED FOR 7/7/78. INTRODUCING THE SUBJECT, UNEP  
EXDIR TOLBA:

- REITERATED HIS RESPONSE TO GA RESTRUCTURING RESOLUTION  
BY DEVELOPMENT OF JOINT THEMATIC PLANNING WHICH PROVIDES  
4-YEAR PLANNING BASIS WITHIN SIX-YEAR PERSPECTIVE;

- DISCUSSED MERGER OF ENVIRONMENT COORDINATION BOARD  
(ECB) WITH ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE ON COORDINATION (ACC),  
WHICH IN TURN VESTED TOLBA WITH AUTHORITY TO CARRY OUT  
COORDINATION FUNCTIONS;

- STATED BOTH GA AND UNEP GC ENDORSEMENT OF CONSIDERING  
ENVIRONMENTAL QUESTIONS AS PART OF IDS;  
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- DISCUSSED PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION,  
UNDP'S ROLE IN PLAN THROUGH UNSO, UNFPA'S CONTRIBUTION  
OF ONE POST TO UNIT TO FOLLOW-UP PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS, AND  
REFERRED COMMITTEE TO SYG'S REPORT ON ESTABLISHING SPECIAL  
ACCOUNT FOR FINANCING PLAN;

- INFORMED COMMITTEE OF UNEP GC APPROVAL OF FORWARDING  
15 DRAFT PRINCIPLES ON SHARED NATURAL RESOURCES (SNR) TO  
GA FOR ADOPTION;

- MENTIONED OTHER TOPICS INCLUDING COMBATTING OIL POLLU-  
TION, TRADE IN HARMFUL CHEMICALS, LEGAL ASPECTS OF OFFSHORE  
MINING, TRUST FUND OF \$5.8 MILLION FOR 8 ARAB STATES' MA-  
RINE DEVELOPMENT, SHORTAGE OF \$40 MILLION OF \$150 MILLION  
BUDGET FOR 1978-81, AND RELATIONSHIP OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS  
(HABITAT) TO ENVIRONMENT.

2. RECEPTION OF TOLBA'S REMARKS WERE FAVORABLE ON BA-  
LANCE. FIRST DAY'S SPEAKERS INCLUDED SWEDEN, USSR, LEAGUE  
OF RED CROSS SOCIETIES (LICROSS), FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GER-  
MANY AND FRANCE. SWEDEN URGED ADOPTION OF SHARED NATURAL  
RESOURCES GENERAL PRINCIPLES SUGGESTING UNEP'S ENVIRONMENT  
AND LAW GROUP TRANSLATE PRINCIPLES INTO STANDARDS WHICH  
COULD BE CODIFIED INTO INTERNATIONAL LAW. USSR WAS CON-  
CERNED WITH UNEP CONCENTRATION ON SMALL RATHER THAN GLOBAL  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS. USSR WOULD LIKE UNEP TO EXAMINE  
INFLUENCE OF EFFECTS OF MILITARY EXPENDITURES ON ENVIRON-  
MENTAL CONSIDERATIONS. LICROSS DELEGATE MADE LONG SPEECH  
CITING CARE OF HUMAN BEINGS AND ENVIRONMENT AS CON-  
CERN OF LICROSS. GERMANY QUESTIONED WISDOM OF ACC-  
ABSORBING ECB AND FAVORED ADOPTION OF 15 PRINCIPLES AT NEXT  
GA. GERMAN DELEGATE ALSO URGED UNEP ACTION ON MARINE POL-  
LUTION; EMBRACED SAHEL PROGRAM,  
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TO WHICH FRG SUPPLIES ACTIVE FINANCIAL SUPPORT; AND LIST-  
ED GERMAN CONTRIBUTIONS TO TROPICAL DISEASE RESEARCH PRO-  
GRAMS (7 MILLION DM), ONCHOCERCHIASIS  
(\$13 MILLION DM). FRANCE URGED PROMPT ACTION ON PROGRAM  
FOR MEDITERRANEAN AND ENDORSED UNEP AND GC ACTIONS WITH 3  
RESERVATIONS:

- TENDENCY TO FUND UNEP ACTIVITIES FROM REGULAR BUDGET  
RATHER THAN VOLUNTARY FUNDS AS PREVIOUSLY AGREED;

- FRANCE'S HOPE THAT CONSIDERATION OF 15 PRINCIPLES  
(SHARED NATURAL RESOURCES) IS NOT SEPARATED FROM THE  
RATIONALE PROVIDED IN THE REPORT OF EXPERTS;

- FRANCE'S VIEW THAT NO NEED FOR SPECIAL ACCOUNT FOR  
DESERTIFICATION ACTIVITIES AND BELIEF THAT THEY CAN BE FI-  
NANCED UNDER EXISTING MULTI-, BI- ARRANGEMENTS.

3. DEBATE CONTINUED ON 7/11/78 WITH STATEMENTS BY HUNG-  
ARY, GREECE, GDR, UNESCO, NEW ZEALAND, POLAND, USSR, CHINA,  
WMO, KENYA, YUGOSLAVIA, MEXICO, SUDAN, JAPAN, IRAQ AND  
IRAN. HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW:

- HUNGARY REP SAID UNEP SHOULD BE FOCAL POINT OF COORDINATION OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. THERE WILL BE A NEED FOR A SYSTEM OF FEEDBACK OF INFORMATION AND ALL RELEVANT ENVIRONMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN PLANNING DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE NEXT DECADE. HUNGARY SUPPORTS USSR PROPOSAL FOR HIGH-LEVEL EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT. NATIONS SHOULD NOT FORGET THE DESTABILIZING EFFECT THE ARMS RACE (NUCLEAR OR CONVENTIONAL) HAS ON ENVIRONMENT. THE GREEK REP STATED THAT DUE TO HIS NATION'S GEOGRAPHIC CONFIGURATION, GREECE FAVORED A REGIONAL APPROACH TO THE ENVIRONMENT QUESTION. GREECE ATTACHES GREAT IMPORTANCE TO ENVIRONMENTAL EFFORTS TO PROTECT WATER. POLITICAL CON-

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CEQ-01 SOE-02 DODE-00 EPA-04 NSF-02 NSC-05 PM-05  
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SIDERATIONS SHOULD NOT BE ALLOWED TO IMPEDE PROGRESS IN THIS AREA. IN ADDITION TO REPEATING POINTS MADE BY HUNGARIAN REP, GDR REP STATED THAT BILATERAL AGREEMENTS WERE THE BEST MEANS OF DEALING WITH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, INCLUDING DESERTIFICATION SINCE THE ISSUE IS SUCH THAT IT MAY

BE CONSIDERED ONLY BY CONCERNED STATES.

- THE UNESCO REP CITED AREAS OF UNESCO/UNEP COOPERATION. HE ADDED THAT SPECIAL CONSIDERATION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO FURTHER EXCHANGE OF INFO, AND CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT FOR TRAINING PERSONNEL.

- NEW ZEALAND REP PRAISED UNEP FOR ITS ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM. HOWEVER, HE WARNED, UNEP WOULD HAVE TO SACRIFICE SOME PROGRAMS OR PLAN EXTREMELY CAREFULLY IF ITS RESOURCES ARE NOT REPLENISHED BY MEMBER NATIONS ON AN EQUI-TABLE BASIS. UNEP SHOULD ATTEMPT TO STRIKE A REGIONAL BALANCE IN ITS PROGRAMMING. ESCAP SHOULD PLAY A GREATER ROLE IN THAT PLANNING, WITH UNEP SUPPORT FOR THAT INCREASED ROLE.

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- POLAND ECHOED THE HUNGARIAN AND GDR REPS IN RHETORIC AND CRITICIZED DEVELOPED COUNTRIES FOR LOCATING INDUSTRIES IN DEVELOPING NATIONS, WITHOUT CONCERN OF COST FOR POLLUTING THE ENVIRONMENT. THE POLISH REP ANNOUNCED THAT POLAND WOULD INCREASE ITS CONTRIBUTION TO UNEP BY 50 BEGINNING 1979.

- USSR REP EXPRESSED USSR'S ENCOURAGEMENT BY THE INCREASED INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS, WITH WHICH USSR "HISTORICALLY" HAS BEEN CONCERNED. THE HELSINKI AGREEMENTS MUST BE IMPLEMENTED, INCLUDING THE CONVENING OF AN ALL-EUROPEAN CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT. HE MENTIONED THE RECENT VISIT OF UNEP EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO USSR, DURING WHICH "IMPORTANT AGREEMENTS WERE SIGNED". HE ADDED THAT THE DESERTIFICATION PLAN OF ACTION MUST MAKE BETTER USE OF AVAILABLE UN AND SPECIALIZED AGENCIES' RESOURCES. FINANCING DESERTIFICATION AND INVESTING CAPITAL MACHINERY WOULD BE UNACCEPTABLE TO USSR, SINCE IT IS VIEWED AS AN INTERFERENCE IN THE INTERNAL AFFAIRS OF STATES. USSR REP CHIDED THOSE STATES DEVOTING THEIR PREVIOUS RESOURCES TO MILITARY DEVELOPMENT.

- CHINESE REP EMPHASIZED THAT INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT, WHILE POLLUTING THE ENVIRONMENT, WAS A MEANS TO ECONOMIC ADVANCEMENT. HOWEVER, DEVELOPMENT SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT WITH CONCERN FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. UNEP SHOULD ADHERE TO NIEO CONCEPTS AND ASSIST LDCS IN STRENGTHENING THEIR ECONOMICS, WHILE PROTECTING THEIR ENVIRONMENT. THE QUESTION OF SHARED NATURAL RESOURCES SHOULD BE TAKEN UP IN BILATERAL CONSULTATIONS AND BY MUTUAL AGREEMENT OF CONCERNED COUNTRIES.

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- REPS FROM WMO, KENYA, YUGOSLAVIA, SUDAN, JAPAN, IRAQ AND IRAN MADE NO SIGNIFICANT POINTS IN THEIR STATEMENTS OTHER THAN EXPRESSING THEIR SUPPORT FOR A UN ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAM AND INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION. JAPAN AND MEXICO STATED THAT THEIR POSITIONS ON SNR REMAINED UNCHANGED.

4. ON LAST DAY OF DEBATE, 7/12/78, INDIA, ARGENTINA, BRAZIL, ITALY AND USDEL MADE INTERVENTIONS. INDIA IS NOT READY TO SUPPORT SNR PRINCIPLES BECAUSE IT HAS NOT STUDIED REPORT IN ENOUGH DETAIL; DELEGATION CONCURS HOWEVER WITH GA REVIEW OF REPORT. ARGENTINA BELIEVES MOST SIGNIFICANT ELEMENTS OF UNEP PROGRAM ARE THOSE PROPOSED FOR MID-TERM. IT ALSO ENDORSED GA ADOPTION OF 15 PRINCIPLES. BRAZIL STRONGLY OBJECTED TO SNR REPORT ON 15 PRINCIPLES ESPECIALLY PRINCIPLES 6, 7 AND 11. BRAZIL ASSERTED UNEP IS NOT COMPETENT TO CODIFY ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARD INTO INTERNATIONAL LAW AND SUGGESTED CONFERENCE ON INTERNATIONAL LAW AS PROPER FORUM FOR THIS FUNCTION. ITALY MADE A GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE STATEMENT OF UNEP PROGRAMS. USDEL MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT.

QUOTE: MR. CHAIRMAN:

MY DELEGATION CONGRATULATES DR. TOLBA FOR HIS CLEAR AND CONCISE REPORT WHICH WAS PRESENTED TO THIS COMMITTEE LAST MONDAY.

SINCE MY GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATED FULLY IN THE GOVERNING COUNCIL SESSION OF UNEP AND SINCE WE WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE DELIBERATIONS OF THE SECOND COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS, WE ONLY HAVE A FEW BRIEF REMARKS TO MAKE IN THIS COMMITTEE.

FIRST, WE JOIN WITH OTHER DELEGATIONS IN COMMENDING THE REPORT OF THE 6TH SESSION OF THE UNEP GOVERNING COUNCIL TO THE 32ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY. MAINTAINING THE SPIRIT OF COOP-  
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CEQ-01 SOE-02 DODE-00 EPA-04 NSF-02 NSC-05 PM-05  
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ERATION DURING THE 6TH SESSION MOVED BOTH DEVELOPED AND  
DEVELOPING COUNTRIES CLOSER TOGETHER IN THEIR PERCEPTION  
OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROBLEMS. INDEED, A GROWING COMMONALITY  
OF VIEWS IS A MEASURE OF UNEP'S SUCCESS IN RAISING  
THE LEVEL OF AWARENESS OF LDCS AND DCS ALIKE ON ENVIRON-  
MENTAL ISSUES.

MR. CHAIRMAN, MY DELEGATION CONSIDERS THE FOLLOWING  
ELEMENTS AS CENTRAL TO THIS COMMITTEE'S CONSIDERATION ON  
UNEP'S ACTIVITIES.

- FIRST, USE OF THE ENVIRONMENT FUND. WHILE THE 6TH  
SESSION DID NOT TAKE ANY EXPLICIT DECISION ON THIS POINT,  
THREE DECISIONS TAKEN BY THE GOVERNING COUNCIL FURTHER  
SOLIDIFY THE PRINCIPAL THAT THE ENVIRONMENT FUND SHOULD  
SERVE AS A CATALYTIC INSTRUMENT AND NOT AS THE SOURCE FOR  
LONG-TERM FINANCIAL COMMITMENTS.

- SECOND, SHARED NATURAL RESOURCES: LET US RECALL THAT  
THIS ISSUE, WHICH HAS FIGURES IN EVERY GOVERNING SESSION  
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FROM THE BEGINNING, WAS AT LEAST PARTIALLY RESOLVED WITH  
THE ADOPTION, BY CONSENSUS, OF THE REPORT OF THE INTER-  
GOVERNMENTAL WORKING GROUP, WHICH MET IN FIVE SESSIONS OVER  
THE PAST THREE YEARS. THE COUNCIL AUTHORIZED THE  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR TO TRANSMIT THE WORKING GROUP'S DRAFT

PRINCIPLES TO THE 33RD SESSION OF THE GENERAL  
ASSEMBLY FOR THEIR ADOPTION.

- THIRD AND LAST, THE UN CONFERENCE ON DESERTIFICATION FOLLOW-UP IS A MAJOR ACTIVITY OF UNEP. THE COUNCIL TOOK SEVERAL MAJOR DECISIONS WHICH WILL BE HELPFUL TO THE EFFORT TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION, I.E., ENLARGING THE ORGANIZATION AND FUNCTIONS OF THE UN SAHELIAN OFFICE AMONG OTHERS. THE COUNCIL ALSO NOTED WITHOUT COMMENT THE SYG'S REPORT, DOCUMENT A/33/117, ON A SPECIAL ACCOUNT FOR FINANCING AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PLAN OF ACTION TO COMBAT DESERTIFICATION. MY DELEGATION CONCURS WITH THAT DECISION. WE BELIEVE THAT THIS REPORT NEEDS TO BE EXAMINED IN DETAIL SO THAT ALL OF ITS IMPLICATIONS, AS THEY AFFECT OTHER PROGRAMS, CAN BE CLEARLY DELINEATED. SINCE SUCH A HEARING CAN BE ACCOMPLISHED BEST IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ITSELF, MY DELEGATION BELIEVES IT MOST ADVISABLE FOR ECOSOC TO NOTE THE SYG'S REPORT AND TO FORWARD IT WITHOUT COMMENT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

THANK YOU MR. CHAIRMAN. UNQUOTE.

5. EXDIR TOLBA EXPRESSED HIS GRATITUDE FOR GENERAL SUPPORT BY COMMITTEE OF UNEP AS NEWEST MEMBER OF UN FAMILY. HE TOOK NOTE OF EAST BLOC INTEREST IN UNEP IN ALL-EUROPE CONFERENCE ON ENVIRONMENT. HE UNDERLINED REMINDER BY USDEL THAT UNEP FUNDING IS CATALYTIC AND NOT LONG-TERM. TOLBA, IN RESPONSE TO USSR, SAID UNEP WOULD TRY TO STRIKE BALANCE BETWEEN SMALL AND GLOBAL PROJECTS. IN RESPONSE TO  
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GERMAN DELEGATION, ABSORPTION OF ECB BY ACC WAS DELIBERATE; HOWEVER, UNEP'S EXECUTIVE AGENT FUNCTION WITHIN ACC FOR COORDINATION OF ENVIRONMENT ACTIVITIES SHOULD ALLAY FEARS. RESPONDING TO FRANCE, TOLBA SAID FUNDING OF UNEP POSTS BY REGULAR BUDGET FOLLOWS GC DICTATES OF THREE SESSIONS AGO. HERE AGAIN UNEP ATTEMPTING TO STRIKE BALANCE BETWEEN SECRETARIAT AND FUND. TO NEW ZEALAND, EXDIR PROMISED TO SEEK BALANCE IN REGIONAL PROJECT ACTIVITY. HE AGREED WITH MEXICO'S OBSERVATION THAT PROJECTS NEED TO BE EVALUATED. HE RAISED BROADER CONCERN OF NEED TO EVALUATE IMPACT OF UNEP PROGRAMS ON GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT.

6. COMMENT: BELIEVE DEBATE REVEALED MOST DEL GENERALLY SUPPORTIVE OF UNEP. DCS GENERALLY CAUTIOUS ABOUT EXPANSION OF UNEP REGULAR BUDGET AND OF SPECIAL ACCOUNT FOR DESERTIFICATION. US POSITION RE SPECIAL ACCOUNT SUPPORTED BY COMMITTEE. FULL EXAMINATION OF SYG'S REPORT THEREFORE PASSED ON TO GA. VANDEN HEUVEL

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## Message Attributes

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